

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0030]:

“[0030] Raman active labels, in certain aspects include composite organic-inorganic nanoparticles (See U.S. patent application Ser. No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed Dec. 29, 2003, entitled "Composite Organic-Inorganic Nanoparticles" (referred to herein as COIN nanoparticles or "COINs")). In these aspects, either one or both the capture oligonucleotide probes and the Raman-active oligonucleotide probes are associated with COIN nanoparticles and detected using SERS.”

with,

--[0030] Raman active labels, in certain aspects include composite organic-inorganic nanoparticles (See U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/748,336, filed Dec. 29, 2003, entitled "Composite Organic-Inorganic Nanoparticles" (referred to herein as COIN nanoparticles or "COINs")). In these aspects, either one or both the capture oligonucleotide probes and the Raman-active oligonucleotide probes are associated with COIN nanoparticles and detected using SERS. --